

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT FOR A WATER
QUALITY STUDY (TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD AND
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT)**

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) seek written and oral comments from interested persons on the development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and an Implementation Plan (IP) to address multiple impairments in the Blackwater River Basin tributaries and the Raccoon Creek watershed. The affected streams were identified in Virginia's 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report, the Virginia 2002 303(d) Report on Impaired Waters, and the 2004 VA Water Quality Assessment 305(b)/303(d) Integrated Report as impaired due to violations of Virginia's water quality standards for fecal coliform bacteria. The streams are therefore not supporting the Primary Contact Recreation (Swimmable) Designated Use. The impairments include: 16.78 miles of Mill Swamp located in Isle of Wight and Surry Counties, 8.16 miles of Rattlesnake (Creek) Swamp located in Isle of Wight, 17.1 miles of Cypress Swamp located in Surry County, and 19.3 miles of Raccoon Creek in Sussex and Southampton Counties.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report. Section 62.1-44.19:7.A and Section 62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia require the development of an IP for approved TMDLs. The IP should provide measurable goals and the date of expected achievement of water quality objectives. The IP should also include the corrective actions needed and their associated costs, benefits, and environmental impacts.

A public meeting on the development of the Blackwater River Tributary TMDL has been scheduled for **Thursday, March 3, 2005 at 7:00pm** at the Airfield 4-H Center, Spain Conference Lodge, in Wakefield, VA. Directions to the Airfield 4-H center can be found at <http://www.ext.vt.edu/resources/4h/airfield/drivingdir.html>. This meeting is a rescheduling of two originally scheduled on January 19th and January 20th, which were postponed due to inclement weather.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the TMDL development process in the Blackwater Tributaries and Raccoon Creek and to share information on bacteria sources in these watersheds. Anyone interested in attending this meeting should contact the regional TMDL coordinator, Chris French (contact information provided below). Information from this meeting will be made available on the DEQ TMDL web site at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl/>.

The public comment period for this phase of the TMDL development will end on April 2, 2005. A fact sheet on the development of these TMDLs is available upon request or can be viewed on the DEQ website at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl>. Questions or information requests should be addressed to Chris French. Written comments regarding the water quality study and TMDL development should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments and should be sent to Chris French, Department of Environmental Quality, 4949-A Cox Road, Glen Allen, Virginia, 23060, telephone (804) 527-5124, fax (804) 527-5106, or e-mail refrench@deq.virginia.gov.